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individuals? Is there another way we can do it? Is this the best way? A more comprehensive, longer-term view is what we think needs to be done. So this, basically, is a call for a study through the department to review where we've been and where we might be going, and there's, obviously, a great many facilities, health facilities, that are in this state, whether they be hospitals or nursing homes or residential care facilities or domicile area care facilities or individuals who are personally licensed as health professionals. There's over 100,000 Nebraskans that are now licensed as a health professional under our Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure. So, there's definitely a need to step back and take a look. There's a desire by the department to do this. That's what the bill calls for. If you don't mind, I'll go into the committee amendments, now, and talk about that.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wesely, thank you, and we recognize you for the committee amendment. (See AM0248 on page 608 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam Chairman...Madam President, members of the Legislature. This amendment, basically, just clarifies the timing of this report and indicates that we want two reports. One done by January 1 of 1998, and the other one done January 1, 1999. The first report will look at facilities first, and we do have a number of issues pending that need attention in that regard. So, the highest priority is looking at facility licensure and credentialing. The second deals with individual licensure and credentialing. And so we'll phase this in two ways. That's what the committee amendment does. The first report, again, due January 1, 1998, the second, January 1, 1999. I ask for adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Discussion? Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I'm not sure...I was doing something else. Is there a cost associated with this? I know not on the committee amendments, but you said a study. I just wanted to know if that was in-house or...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wesely.